



Beach Policies

Swimmers

Swimmers may go out to a depth that the guard on duty determines is safe for that day depending on tidal stage, wave size and local weather conditions. A useful rule of thumb is just over the swimmer's head in flat water, not beyond the swells in medium waves, and not beyond the breakers in rough surf. Whether or not the patrons may go in the water and where they go is always at the guard's discretion

Surfers

Wells is a well known surfing beach. Surfing is allowed at the guard's discretion. Surfers generally go out as far as the deepest swells. Surfers work on a first come first serve basis; all surfers must be at least 100 feet away from all swimmers.

Fishermen

Fishing is allowed off the beaches at a first come first serve basis. Fishermen are asked to keep at least 200 feet away from swimmers. If there are too many swimmers to allow fishing, the patron may be asked to move to the nearest jetty.

Boaters

Motorboats must cut their engines when taking off from or launching from the public beaches. Any boat leaving the beach must have a PFD for every person on board and one extra as per the USCG standards. The PFD's must be within reasonable reach in case of emergencies and not stowed away. This includes inflatable boats if the boater is carrying paddles, without paddles they are considered floats. Windsurfers must also have a PFD along with kayaks.

Divers

Scuba diving is allowed, however divers must have a partner, a dive flag and float. Guards may also speak with the divers before they begin their trip to find out some valuable information such as tank life, skill level, etc.

Recreational Floats

Floats are allowed in the water at the guard's discretion. If the guard feels that the current wind is too strong or the waves are too big they may not allow floats in the water for the day. Generally, if there is a consistent off-shore breeze, the Lifeguard Captain will inform guards that floats will not be allowed for the day or until the breeze changes direction. Please note: Guards are not on the beach to save your floats.

Sharks

Lifeguards will follow appropriate action plans for shark sightings as outlined in the Wells Beach Shark Manual. A copy of this **manual** is posted on the Town website under the Lifeguard Department.

Dogs

Between April 1st and June 15th dogs are not allowed within beach areas unless on a leash and under the charge of a responsible person. From June 16th and September 15th dogs are not allowed within beach areas between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. From 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. dogs are allowed within beach areas only when on a leash and under charge of a responsible person. This does not apply to seeing - eye dogs or other dogs assisting an individual with a disability or to working police dogs.

Games

Any games that would not injure any other patrons are allowed on the beach. No structures such as nets can be left up over night. Trick kites should be kept at a safe distance from other patrons. Biking is allowed on the beach and on the hard sand.

Alcohol

There is to be no controlled substances of any kind on the beach, including alcohol. Patrons drinking on the beach may be asked to dump their alcohol or leave the beach.

Smoking

There is no smoking of any materials including vaping allowed on the beach.

Fires

Fires are not allowed on any Wells public beach. Fires are only allowed on Moody Beach for homeowners (guests w/permission) and must have a daily permit from the Wells Fire Department.

Jetties

No swimming, surfing, or diving is allowed inside the jetties. Patrons may walk the length of the jetty and fish off the jetty. Patrons may not climb the USCG towers at the end of the jetties and must stay above the seaweed line at all times. In the event of strong waves, patrons may be asked not to walk the jetties. Swimmers must always remain 100 feet from the jetties and outside the "no swimming" buoys.

Fog

Fog may obscure visibility from the beach. Lifeguards may patrol the water's edge in moderate fog. If fog completely obscures visibility guards will evacuate the water and continue to patrol the water's edge.

Seals

Seals do occasionally come up on shore, this does not necessarily mean they are injured or in need of care. Patrons must stay 500 feet away, no loud noises should be made, and a clear path must be made by lifeguards for the seal's re-entrance to the sea.

Piping Plovers

Between April 1st and September 1st, the endangered Piping Plovers nest on Wells Beach. This species of bird is federally protected. Fines and more severe consequences may be imposed on anyone who harms this animal. In order to protect these birds, there have been some rules made pertaining to patrons on the beach. These rules include:

1. All kites must be flown in the hard sand and at least 100 feet away from the Plover Nests.
2. All volleyball nets must be set up in the hard sand and taken down when done for the day.
3. No one is allowed to poke at the nesting birds inside the fenced -in nesting area.
4. If you see someone harming these birds you must notify the police at 207-646-9354.
5. Anyone who is caught violating these rules will have committed a civil violation and shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$1000.00 for each violation.